

CONDEMNING THE REPORT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this Resolution which condemns Hezbollah and Hamas, the terrorist attacks against Israel and the full support of the U.S. for Israel to defend herself and live in peace among her neighbors.

As I support this Resolution, I believe it is deficient in not expressing this body's strongest desire for all parties involved in the current conflict to exercise military restraint in order to spare the lives of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians.

While the Lebanese people have been making laudable strides toward a more positive future and a peaceful coexistence in the region, terrorists have sought continuously to ignite conflict. The Government of Lebanon has paid a price for their stand against Hezbollah and Syria, enduring assassinations, political and social turmoil, and now the wide-scale destruction of civilian lives and critical infrastructure.

As a result the people of Lebanon are alongside our friends in Israel in being victimized by Hezbollah and Hamas in the current crisis. Both sides are enduring extraordinary hardship from air and rocket attacks and hundreds of civilians have been killed during the current military campaign. The terrorists have succeeded in creating a humanitarian crisis which the international community, including the United States, has yet to respond to. The escalating conflict is nearing full-scale war and terrorists and their state sponsors are realizing their goal of scuttling the Roadmap to Peace and pushing regional leaders away from the negotiating table.

I believe the United States has the responsibility and the power to be the voice of reason and put an end to brinkmanship. The region is desperate for restraint on the part of all parties. The Resolution is silent on this.

It should be our goal today to protect the civilian lives and critical infrastructure that have been targeted in the current fighting, and work to bring about restraint to resolve the crisis without further bloodshed.

We need a policy in the Middle East that does not begin and end with military force. A political solution must be structured and the U.S. can and should take a decisive role through diplomacy and negotiations to shape a solution to the conflict.

It is regrettable that the above is not addressed in House Resolution 921.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID G. HARLOW FOR HIS 29 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as another Fourth of July has passed us by, Americans are

again reminded of the sacrifices so many have made and continue to make in order to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. None of these freedoms would be possible if it weren't for the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

I stand here today to honor one such individual, Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. On August 26, 2006, Chief Harlow will retire from reserve duty, after more than 29 years of federal military service in the defense of our great nation.

Chief Harlow was born in Riverside, California, and attended Charter Oak High School, where he excelled at Track and Field. After his graduation from Charter Oak, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in July of 1966. Upon completion of his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Chief Harlow was assigned to Whellus Air Force Base in Libya, where he worked in information management. In July of 1968, he was reassigned to the 7272nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at Kingsley Field in Oregon, where he served as an Information Management Specialist.

Upon completion of his active duty service in July of 1970, Chief Harlow was licensed by the Department of Treasury as an International Customs House Broker in the cargo industry. Over the next few years, Chief Harlow became known as one of the top professionals in his field, and in 1980 he authored a book entitled "Importer's Guide to U.S. Customs."

In August of 1981, Chief Harlow entered the Air Force Reserves at Norton Air Force Base in California, and was placed in the 445th Aerial Port Flight, where he became the Unit Training Manager. In July of 1985, he was reassigned to the 37th MAPS unit at March Air Force Base where he eventually became the Superintendent of Operations. In 1989, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. In November of 1990, he was reassigned to Saudi Arabia in support of operation Desert Storm, and served as his unit's Deployment Team Chief.

Upon his return from Operation Desert Storm, Chief Harlow was awarded the "Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year" award and was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Later, he was reassigned to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron, where he introduced a set of training exercises known as the Aerial Port Field Exercises. This program trained Aerial Port Squadrons in the areas of mobility deployment and chemical attack survival. Chief Harlow's program was so successful that it led to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron being awarded the Air Force's prestigious "Aerial Port of the Year Award".

In June of 2000, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and became the Superintendent of Squadron Operations. In June of 2005 he was reassigned to the 50th Aerial Port Squadron as Superintendent of Squadron Operations.

Chief Harlow has received numerous decorations including the Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with Seven Oak Leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Air Force Good Conduct medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Throughout his extraordinary service to our country, Chief Harlow has always been a dedicated and loving family man. He is married to his wonderful wife, Laurie Harlow. Together they have two sons, David and Daniel, as well as four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with an extreme sense of respect and pride that I stand here today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. His contributions to his family, the United States Air Force, and this great nation serve as a wonderful example of patriotism for all Americans to follow.

COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 448—Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission.

I can think of no better way to celebrate this great Nation's Independence Day than to witness the triumph of science and innovation. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Senior Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, it was a thrill and a joy to see Space Shuttle *Discovery* launch on July 4.

The *Discovery* crew finished their 13-day mission, which included a docking with the International Space Station, two space walks, but most importantly, a keen review of all safety issues.

We began to focus on the issue of safety when the issues were raised by NASA safety engineers just before the launch of *Discovery* the first week of July. I met with NASA Administrator Michael Griffin just before the launch, and I am pleased that emphasis and priority has been placed on the safety of the astronauts and the space shuttle.

This was an exciting and positive mission. Over the course of the 5.8 million mile journey, the STS-121 Mission Crew succeeded in testing shuttle safety improvements, repairing a rail car on the International Space Station and producing unprecedented images of the shuttle during and after its July 4 launch. In addition, the entire mission exhibited a new concern with safety to coincide with NASA's exemplary reputation for accuracy, precision, and innovation.

Americans love their space program and it is the first priority of NASA and Members of Congress to ensure that it is a viable, continuing, and safe program. The survival of the space program has to be premised with an understanding of the risk, yet at the same time must embrace this new important culture of safety.

I would like to extend my thanks to STS-121, Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson, Lisa Nowak, and Michael Fossum. Your courage and resolve will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

Welcome home *Discovery*.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 921. I strongly believe that the State of Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens from attacks from Hezbollah. No country in the world would long tolerate the capture of its soldiers or the continual rain of deadly missiles and rockets onto its cities, towns, and villages without retaliating.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the statements by President Bush and the leaders of the other G-8 nations that Israel should exercise the utmost restraint in its military actions in Lebanon. It is crucial that Israel seek to minimize the loss of civilian lives and the destruction of the civilian infrastructure of Lebanon, as well as the destabilization of the Lebanese Government.

Moreover, thousands of Americans are currently trapped in Lebanon. Many of these Americans have family ties to my State of Michigan. I urge the State Department and the Department of Defense to evacuate these American citizens swiftly and safely. I am also pleased that the Bush administration has agreed to not charge the American citizens for the costs of their evacuation from Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the only superpower in the world. We should work closely with the United Nations and the international community to help find a lasting solution to Israel's conflicts with her neighbors. As the G-8 leaders said in their statement on the Middle East, the root cause of the problems in that region is the absence of a comprehensive Middle East peace. America should be leading the way to such a comprehensive peace between Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinians. In the near term, an immediate cease fire would allow desperately needed humanitarian assistance to reach the people of Lebanon, and would allow the Israeli residents of northern Israel to return to their homes and lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of July 10, 2006 the House voted on two measures under suspension of the rules. H.R. 5061, the Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act and H.R. 2563, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho. On rollcall votes No. 358 and No. 359, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to express unwavering support for Israel as it faces a campaign of violence perpetrated by Hezbollah; express strong support for the Israeli government, which has evoked its unequivocal right to self-defense; and express support for the Israeli people, who are not alone. America stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel in its ongoing, 58-year struggle for security and peace.

Israel has been victimized by attacks on its sovereign land, and the international community must join us in decrying these horrific acts. Make no mistake—Hezbollah is not Israel's problem alone. In the past few years, Hezbollah has acquired advanced weaponry from Iran and Syria that threatens the security of Israel, the stability of the region, and American interests in the Middle East. The world cannot afford to remain on the sidelines as Israel fights to eradicate this global threat.

Two years ago, the United States and France joined together in passing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, which asserted the sovereignty of Lebanon and demanded the disarmament of Hezbollah. While Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon, the Lebanese government was negligent in failing to disarm Hezbollah. During this time, Hezbollah strengthened its arsenal while continuing to serve as a terrorist proxy for Syria and Iran.

Today, I call on the international community to assist the Lebanese government in fulfilling its obligations outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. I call on the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. I call on the United Nations to hold Iran and Syria responsible for arming, financing, and supporting Hezbollah. And I respectfully call on President Bush to implement the full range of U.S. sanctions against Syria and renew U.S. sanctions against Iran. As Israel's strongest ally and friend, the United States must exhaust every effort to restore stability and security to the Middle East.

As we reflect on the violence unfolding as we speak, we are reminded of the resilience and perseverance of the Israeli people, who have never sacrificed the dream of peace. It is my wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—Hatikva—may come to fruition, and that Israel will succeed in defeating Hezbollah and creating a lasting peace.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families who have

lost loved ones in the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East. I am pleased that H. Res. 921 expresses Congress's "condolences to all families of innocent victims of recent violence."

The United States is faced with a harsh reality that peace in the Middle East has been so elusive. Yet we cannot, we must not, stop trying to broker peace. The U.S. cannot turn its back on the families in the Middle East and must not conclude that constant war is inevitable. The U.S. must step up to the challenge of engaging the Israelis, Palestinians, and Lebanese and all the Middle East nations who want a lasting peace. I am not willing to give up hope that peace in the region can be achieved and nor should this administration.

It is imperative to remember that this region is very complex, and that there are forces working for peace and forces that crave war. Benjamin Franklin once said, "There was never a good war or a bad peace." It is time for this administration to remember these important words. The Middle East conflict has largely been pushed to the back burner by this administration with serious repercussions for U.S. national security interests. The U.S. must stop performing band-aid diplomacy and focus on long-term solutions to move toward peace. History should have taught us that violence only begets more violence and all actors involved need to recognize the mutual benefits of peace.

We are faced with a vital question—where can we go from here? First and foremost, Hezbollah and Hamas must disarm and recognize Israel's right to exist. Armed political parties that use brute force do not foster peaceful solutions. Israel has survived five major wars since its inception. This country lives in constant defense mode because terrorist organizations surrounding it still harbor hope of its destruction. The U.S. must continue its steadfast support of Israel, and all countries in the region must abide by U.N. resolutions that promote a two-state solution.

The loss of civilian lives in the Middle East is tragic and continued violence makes the challenge of achieving peace more difficult. The U.S. must renew a serious diplomatic effort in the region.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with very strong and mixed feelings on H. Res. 921. This resolution condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel. The State of Israel has two intractable enemies, Hamas and Hezbollah. Presently, Israel is engaged in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon. I cannot over-emphasize that I am vehemently and unalterably opposed to the attacks undertaken by Hezbollah against Israel. At the same time, I cannot and will not support other language in the resolution which I consider to be harmful to the interests of peace, diplomacy, security, and the protection of civilians in Lebanon and Israel.